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Basrah neighborhood welcomes new primary healthcare center

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Pharmacist Zeinab helps provide prescription medication to an Iraqi family at the newly-opened Al Muhandiseen Primary Healthcare Center in Basrah Province. [USACE Photo by A. Al Bahrani]

Basrah, Iraq - A newly-opened primary healthcare center in Basrah is providing improved medical care and much-needed jobs for the local community.

Dr. Hadeel Sami, the PHC's administrator reports serving about 90 patients daily. "We plan to double our staff of 30 personnel within the next few months and offer additional services," she noted. "Local families tell us they're very happy to have this facility in their community."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversaw construction of the new two-story medical facility, which serves the Hai Al Muhandiseen neighborhood of about 10,000 residents. The healthcare center is equipped with exam rooms, dental rooms, an x-ray facility, as well as laboratories, classrooms, vaccination and treatment rooms and a pharmacy. There are also offices

and meeting rooms for the doctors and administrative staff.

Pharmacist Zainab Ali, with seven years experience dispensing medications to Iraqis, says this is the most modern facility she's been assigned. "It's got state-of-the-art equipment, plenty of space, a data system, public address and fire alarm system, as well as emergency generators for backup power."

Abo Laith, who seriously injured his right hand in an accident said, "I'm lucky that my home is just a ten minute walk from here. If this facility did not exist, I would have had to drive about 20 kilometers to get emergency medical care. We're very fortunate to have this available nearby."

The Basrah deputy area engineer for the Gulf Region South district is an Iraqi known as Engi-

neer Al. Al oversaw the facility's construction and said, "The opening of the new \$330,000 Al Muhandiseen primary healthcare center is another important step to achieving the goal of offering modern healthcare services to all Iraqi neighborhoods."

USACE recently completed six other PHCs in the Basrah Province and has another three nearing completion. Throughout Iraq, of the 132 primary healthcare facilities financed by the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, 125 have been turned over to the Iraqi Ministry of Health.



An Iraqi woman holds her grandson after getting him medication at the new Al Muhandiseen Primary Healthcare Center in Basrah Province [USACE Photo by A. Al Bahrani].



A physician's assistant determines an Iraqi girl's weight at the newly-opened Al Muhandiseen Primary Healthcare Center in Basrah Province [USACE Photo by A. Al Bahrani].

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